



URBAN DISTRICT OF WHITTLESEY.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year
1950.

Chairman of the Council.

Mr. C. A. Jacobs, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Mr. E. W. Smith. (Until 28th October).

Public Health Committee.

Chairman :

Mr. T. W. Anthony.

Members :

Mr. J. W. Coomber.
Mr. C. Dale.
Mr. F. J. Fletcher.
Mr. W. Freeman.
Mr. F. H. Newman.
Mr. T. E. Richardson.
Mr. E. W. Rose.
Mr. A. B. Saunders.
Mrs. I. M. Turner.

Officers of the Whittlesey Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health :

D. C. Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

B. Hall, Cert. S.I.E.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
(from 1st January until 30th October)

Meat Inspector :

J. H. Poles, M.R.C.V.S.

Offices of the Urban District Council.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
WHITTLESEY.

Telephone No. Whittlesey 3144.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report of the health of this district, together with the Report of the Sanitary Inspector. In doing so I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Scott the Sanitary Inspector and Miss. Bailey of the Council's staff for the help they have so readily given in the preparation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. Logan,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	23,362.
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	...		2,501.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£27,997.
Product of a 1d. rate	...	...	£114.	8s. 6d.
Population (Registrar General's figures)				8,657.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	65	86	151
Illegitimate	5	4	9
Total :	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>160</u>

Live Birth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 18.5.
 England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population 15.8.

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total :	<u>2</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>2</u>

Stillbirth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population .23.
 England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population .37.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total :	<u>3</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>3</u>

Infant Mortality Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 Live Births 18.7.
 England and Wales - per 1,000 Live Births 29.8.

It is very gratifying to have achieved an Infant Mortality Rate (18.7) below the figure for the Country as a whole (29.8) and even below the figure of 23 which, it has been calculated, would be the Infant Mortality Rate if all unfavourable social factors were removed.

In analysing this rate it is convenient to separate the deaths into two groups (a) deaths of Infants from birth to four weeks and (b) deaths from four week to twelve months.

In the first group prematurity and congenital malformations incompatible with survival are the commonest causes of death. There were two deaths in this group during the year, both infants were premature weighing 3 lbs. 6 oz. and 1 lb. 12 oz. respectively. The outlook for a child born prematurely depends broadly speaking on it's birth weight and the nearer this is to normal the greater is the chance of survival.

In the second group there was one death, a child of four weeks which was due to prematurity and a congenital malformation.

The number of deaths in this group is a very delicate index of living conditions and is low in Countries where there are good health services and good living conditions. The death rate for this group in Whittlesey was 6.25 which is very low.

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
49	40	89.

Death Rate . -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 10.3.
England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population 11.6

Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied
by the Registrar General for 1950 :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-
Malignant neoplasms, stomach.	2	1
" " lung.	1	-
" " breast.	-	2
" " uterus.	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	7	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	10
Coronary disease.	5	3
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	1
Other heart disease.	11	10
Other circulatory disease	1	2
Influenza.	-	1
Pneumonia.	-	2
Bronchitis.	2	-
Other disease of respiratory system.	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined disease.	8	3
Motor vehicle accidents.	2	-
All other accidents.	2	1
Suicide.	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total :	49	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1950 :-

Pneumonia	29
Scarlet Fever	19
Measles	148
Erysipelas	4
Whooping Cough	137
Diphtheria	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Infective Jaundice	2

Total : 341

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 12 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were reported :

In spite of the recent advances in the treatment of Tuberculosis a long period of invalidism and convalescence is still necessary even in early cases.

The isolation of active cases and the careful follow up of contacts are the main factors in the prevention of this disease. Overcrowding is a factor in favouring spread and when this is overcome a diminution of cases should occur.

On the other hand the greatly increased facilities for X-ray examination and the readiness with which people undergo repeated examinations probably brings to notice a number of mild cases which may have healed spontaneously without the patient having suffered any more than a vague feeling of not being quite fit. This will tend to keep up the number of notifications.

The following table gives details of Infectious Diseases as notified during 1950 :-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1950.

Age.	Pneumonia.		Scarlet Fever.		Measles.		Erysipelas.		Whooping Cough.		Diphtheria.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Infective Jaundice.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.						3			2	5						
1 - 5 yrs.	2		5	2	45	33			33	44						
5 - 10 yrs.	3		5	5	32	32			24	22					1	
10 - 15 yrs.	1			2	2					2						
15 - 25 yrs.	2	1				1	1				1					
25 - 35 yrs.	2	1							2	2				1	1	
35 - 50 yrs.	4	3					1		1							
50 - 65 yrs.	4	2					1									
over 65 yrs.	2	2					1									
Total :	20	9	10	9	79	69	3	1	62	75	-	1	-	1	2	-

WATER SUPPLY.

A piped water supply is provided in Whittlesey, Coates and Eastrea. Complaints were received during the year of poor pressure but when the new scheme for keeping the water tower full by means of a supply reservoir is completed it is hoped that no further complaints of this nature will be received.

The quality of the water has been satisfactory.

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Informal Notices served during the year
to provide dustbins 8

Number of Informal Notices served during the year
to remedy housing defects ... 1.

NUMBER OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

- (1) Under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936
(Housing Repairs) 1
- (2) Under Section 39 of the Public Health Act,
1936 (Drainage) 1
- (3) Under Section 44 of the Public Health Act,
1936 (Defective Closet Accommodation) 1
- (4) Under Section 50 of the Public Health Act,
1936 (Cesspool Emptying) 1
- (5) Under Section 75 of the Public Health Act,
1936 (Dustbins) 60
- (6) Under Section 93 of the Public Health Act,
1936 (Nuisances) 2
- (7) Under Section 79 and 276 of the Public Health
Act, 1936 (Removal of Noxious Matter) 1

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during 1950 :

- (1) By Local Authority 22
- (2) By Private Enterprise .. 8

The lack of an adequate number of houses in Whittlesey reflects the state of housing in the Country as a whole and is one of the most serious social problems of the day.

It is undoubtedly the greatest single cause of unhappiness among young married people while those with growing families housed in old unsuitable properties experience a profound feeling of **frustration** in being unable to provide their children with suitable accommodation and modern domestic amenities which they know to be essential for their health and well being.

Unsuitable insanitary houses condemned before the war were still occupied during the year and as they were vacated by tenants allotted a new Council house none were demolished as it was felt that bad though they were they represented some sort of accommodation for families desperately in need of them.

The number of applicants awaiting houses provided by the Council was 273 at the end of the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is carried out by the Council employees with the Council's own motor vehicle.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping and as the old tip is nearing completion a suitable site has been purchased and should come into operation early next year.

CESSPOOL, PRIVY VAULT AND PAIL CLOSET EMPTYING.

This is done by a private contractor. The work has been carried out satisfactorily.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are three registered in the district and regular inspections by the Police and Sanitary Inspector were made.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Because of the housing shortage the number increases, many of them have only a semblance of mobility.

At the end of the year there were two licenced sites and ten licences granted to erect or station and use such dwellings. They are controlled particularly with regard to sanitary conditions.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are five in the district and routine inspections have shown them to be in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1950.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	26	43	Nil	Nil
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced.	49	32	Nil	Nil
Other Premises.	7	8	Nil	Nil
Total :	82	83	Nil	Nil

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness.	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Closet Unsuitable or Defective.	2	2	Nil	1	Nil
Total :	4	4	Nil	1	Nil

ICE CREAM.

Eighteen premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act. In all cases the ice cream sold is made outside the district.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1st October, 1949, we have on the Register :

2 Distributors.

2 Dairies.

1 Distributor holding a supplementary Licence to sell Sterilised Milk.

1 Distributor holding a Dealers Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

1 Distributor holding a Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk.

1 Distributor holding a Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

FOOD INSPECTION.

In no case was it found necessary to make any seizure of diseased or unsound food. The main work in this department was the issue of certificates of un-sound food-stuffs mostly blown and rusted cans, voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The slaughtering for the town is carried out at Peterborough. Meat is inspected in the shops in the district by Mr. J. H. Poles.
